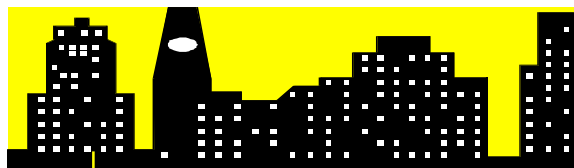


Talk of the Town



March 2002

A periodic newsletter to keep the legal community informed about news concerning the Clerk of the Court's Office

The minute for the minutes arrives

by Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

The minute we have been waiting for has arrived, which means the *minutes* you have been waiting for will be arriving directly on your computer.



For several months, I have been mentioning our Minute Entry Electronic Distribution System (MEEDS) pilot project, which is a program we designed to automate the entire minute-entry process. This automation includes sorting and distributing the minute entries from the court division to the parties, court docket, website, and to a few law firms who are participating in the pilot project.

However, I am pleased to announce that we are now able to open up MEEDS to all interested law firms. This will save us considerable time, printing costs and paper, as well as allow us to provide better service to the legal community, who will receive the minute entries in a more efficient manner.

We have been working toward this goal for a couple of years and it is gratifying to see that we are now at a point where we can provide you faster service while reducing costs.

If you are interested in receiving the minute entries electronically, please contact us so that we can provide you further details and enroll you in the program. You may contact Communications Director Cari Gerchick by email at cgerchick@cosc.maricopa.gov.

New method to capture the action

A new technology is being provided to all Juvenile courtroom clerks and some Family Court divisions to assist with capturing the actions of the court for inclusion in the minute entry. It is a digital recording software program called "For the Record" that provides better clarity than an audio tape and eliminates background noise. In addition, it is more efficient to use by the courtroom clerks who can simply notate a time that an event occurs in court and then go directly to that time on the recording when they are preparing the minute entry.

This serves as a note-taking alternative for courtroom clerks without shorthand skills. As this program continues to be successful, plans are to expand it to all courtroom clerks.



Some filing fees increase

On February 1, 2002, filing fees for civil, family, probate and tax cases increased by \$40. The increase applies to all initial complaint filings and answers/responses, as well as a few other filings. The change in these filing fees is a combination of two separate \$20 fee increase requests made to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors by the Clerk of the Court's Office and Superior Court. The County Supervisors approved both requests.

The additional funding for the Clerk's Office will be used toward the development and maintenance of the Electronic Document Management System. This system will allow the Clerk's Office to take advantage of computer technology to electronically store and manage all documents.

In Superior Court, the \$20 increase will be applied to the case management fee, which will go from \$10 to \$30. The Court will use the additional funding to enhance and expand Conciliation Services and install money-saving technology in courtrooms.

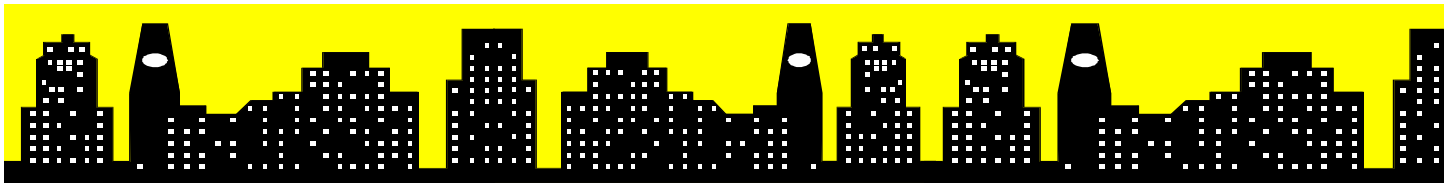
Contact Us

Following are some Clerk's Office phone numbers that may be useful:

Administration -
602-506-3676

Customer Service -
602-506-3360

Family Support Center -
602-506-3762



Minute entries available on the web

by Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

Word about the minute-entry feature on our website seems to be spreading, which is good because it is a service that is beneficial and convenient for the legal community. We hope many of you have had the opportunity to use it. If you haven't, here are detailed instructions for retrieving the minute entries for most newer cases:

- Go to www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov
- Click on "Minute Entries"
- Read the disclaimer
- If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader, click on the Adobe Acrobat icon to have it installed.
- Click on "Continue to Minute Entries"
- You may search for a minute entry by case number or first or last name.
- To search by case number with a specific year, enter the case number like this: CR2001005011. For older cases without a specific year, enter the case number like this: DR-021643 for Family Court cases, or P -0097088 (space between P and the dash) for Probate cases.
- To search by name, type in the last name in the appropriate field. To narrow the search, type in the first name.
- You also may search by first name only. Names must be typed and spelled exactly how they appear on the docket.
- If you do a name search to find the case number, you may then want to do a search by that case number to ensure that you are seeing all of the minute entries.
- After typing in the case number, click on "Retrieve Minute Entries." All available minutes will be listed along with the party names and date of the minute entry. Click on "Retrieve Minute Entry" to view the minute

entry. This site may not contain all of the minute entries for this case. Check the case file to see all documents filed.

- To print the minute entry, click on the printer icon.

Most criminal minute entries are available from January 2000 to the present; most Probate minute entries from December 2000 to the present; most Civil and Tax minute entries from April 2001 to the present; and most Family Court minute entries from May 2001 to the present.

Juvenile update

Construction for a new Juvenile Court Facility is underway at the Durango Complex. The planned three-story building will have 12 courtrooms and include offices for the Clerk of the Court, County Attorney, Public Defender, and Juvenile Probation. The new building will be located directly west of the current Juvenile Court facility. Construction is projected to be completed in 2003.

A report on the Annual Report

The Public Affairs Office has completed production of the 2000 - 2001 Annual Report for the Clerk of the Court's Office. For the first time, the report is also available on the Office website at www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov under the "News" section.

Any law firm that is interested in obtaining a hard copy of the report may call 602-506-6114 or e-mail LKeso@cosc.maricopa.gov.

Town Tidbits



The address previously used for mailing **Support Payments** (P.O. Box 29369, Phoenix, AZ. 85038-9369), is no longer available for receiving payments. It was closed effective January 1, 2002. Any payments or other correspondence mailed to that location will be returned to sender.

The correct address for mailing Support Payments is: Support Payment Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 52107, Phoenix, AZ. 85072-2107. Please discard any forms using P.O. Box 29369.



The Supreme Court recently issued an important corrective order relating to Rule 32.9 - Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure. The order states:

"It is ordered correcting a previous order amending Rule 32.9, Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, which was signed on Oct. 15, 2001 effective Dec. 1, 2001. That order contained a typographical error in the restatement of Rule 32.9(c) which erroneously provided that the petition for review, cross-petition and all responsive pleadings filed pursuant to this rule shall be '*filed with the trial court.*' The last four words of the quoted provision should have been *in the appellate court.*"



Attorneys, please note that copies of Affidavits of Service should be sent to:

Family Support/Support Orders
201 W. Jefferson, Window 10
Phoenix, AZ 85003

This will assist the Family Support Center who tracks the specialized Family Court filings, which include:

- Child Support Modifications Pursuant to the Guidelines Simplified Procedure;
- Requests to Modify or Terminate an Order of Assignment; and
- Expedited Judgment of Arrears.

Upon the receipt of an Affidavit of Service, the system tracks the time frame in which the other party has to file a request for hearing, 20 days for in-state service or 30 days for out of-state service.

Talk of the Town. Published periodically by the Clerk of the Superior Court's Communications Office for the legal community. Contact the Office, Central Court Building, 201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Ariz. 85003
(602) 506-5728

Director
Public Affairs Officer

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